

BromeliAdvisory

November 2013



Alcantarea

Photo by Desiree Meyer

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WEBPAGE: <http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

 http://www.facebook.com/groups/BromeliadSF/?bookmark_t=group
 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bromeliad-Society-of-South-Florida/84661684279>

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 VP: Lenny Goldstein
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Robert C Meyer

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Education: Nat DeLeon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills
Library: Barbara Partagas
Membership: Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Antonio Arbelaez
Raffle: Mike Michalski
Refreshments: Sandy Roth

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

NOVEMBER 19, 2013 7:30 PM
SPEAKER: Group
RAFFLE TABLE: Barbara Partagas
FOOD: Many – Usual suspects

Speakers

Panel Discussion on Preparing Plants for Show. Alan Herndon, Barbara Partagas, Mike Michalski and maybe others will be there. Tips, clues and more are to be offered.

The meeting will be held in the Corbin A

Note: Meeting will include the voting of a new board. Nominations are allowed at the meeting – read By-Laws' Article VII.



President's Message

by Barbara Partagas

We had a beautiful day and a good crowd at the yard sale. We netted \$417.00. Thanks to my son and daughter-in-law for providing lots of baby/toddler items and to all the members who donated items. Not enough can be said about the members who showed up to help all day. Thanks to Carl "the Toolman" Bauer, Laura "Cheap 'em or Keep 'em" Coe, Maureen "the Closer" Adelman, Lori Weyrick and Rhonda Herndon, otherwise known as the "Enforcers". If you have a garage sale, you need these people. They have talent.

See you at 7:30pm on Tuesday.

Barbara Partagas

BSSF Auction 2013

by Alan Herndon

We have ended our year's fund-raising activities with another successful auction.

Sandy Roth, greatly assisted by Laura Coe, set up a substantial food table to provide the energy bidders needed to keep their paddles in the air throughout the evening. Many other members generously added to the treats available, but I neglected to keep a list of names. Despite my shortcomings, we all appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Auction.

Additional help with setup came from an unexpected source. Marnie Valent showed up to see how BSSF set up for the auction since the Fern Society _ for the first time in living memory _ will be holding their own auction in the same room at a later date. At the time, we were just beginning to realize that the room had far too few tables to hold all of the anticipated plants. Marnie was able to instantly recognize that we could solve two problems at once by simply transferring tables from the Holding Room to the Auction Room.

Peter Kouchalacos served as our auctioneer for the evening, once again displaying the skill and brilliance that have made him a most highly valued member of our society for many years. Many members appreciated the way he kept up the pace of the auction so we could finish and be back home by a reasonable hour.

Robert Meyer kept track of the bids throughout the auction, and cross-checked his records with the bid sheets turned in _ remaining cool and professional in the face of the many people anxious to check out (all at the same time, of course) and take their new treasures home.

Rhonda Herndon and Lori Weyrick recorded successful bids on each plants and made sure the correct copy reached the correct recipient. Maureen Adelman and Antonio Arbelaez formed a chain that transported plants from the Auction Room to the Holding Area. This was a slightly more complicated task than in years past because the door that provides a direct path from the Auction Room to the Holding Room is in the process of being replaced, and was nonfunctional at just the wrong time for us. Plants had to be carried through the hall to the Holding Room.

Most of the evening Desiree Meyer – by herself – kept the auctioned plants neatly organized for convenient retrieval by the successful bidders in the Holding Area. Barbara Partagas pitched in to help with the mad rush of bidders eager to make a quick escape after bidding stopped.

We especially want to thank Bullis Bromeliads, Steve Correale and Plants in Design for their donations of many beautiful plants. Mike Michalski, Robert Meyer and Peter Kouchalacos earned our thanks by transporting these donations to the auction. Finally, we want to thank all of our members and guests who participated and made this year's Auction another success.

The evening, in addition to the pleasant company, provided an infusion of approximately \$3,500 for the BSSF Treasury. This puts us in sound financial shape for the start of the coming year. Well done.

Garden Notes October 2013

by Alan Herndon

Fall arrived in stages over the month. From the very first days, early morning temperatures were distinctly cooler than in summer. For the first 3 weeks, afternoon temperatures still reached near, or even slightly above 90 F. This gave a feeling that summer lingered on,

although, the maximum temperatures were generally 4 degrees F lower than during the previous several months. Those of us who worked outside all summer noticed this moderation and began to dream again of days when working outside is a pleasure. Starting with the last week of the month, a weak cold front delivered 2 days where the temperature did not exceed 80 degrees F.

The cold front mentioned above was expected to carry copious amounts of rainfall. It certainly did so in the northern portion of the Florida peninsula, and even in the middle section, and possibly, even in some parts of the Miami area. By the time it reached the nursery, unfortunately, the skies had closed, and we had, once again, to rely on our own artificial rain to keep the plants alive.

Aechmea chantinii continued to bloom at a slow, but steady, pace. *Aechmea calyculata* and *Aechmea gracilis* of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* also bloomed during the month. Since we have had a noticeable cooling in nighttime temperatures, I am forced to say these are blooming in their normal flowering season. Unfortunately, this might force me to admit that my remarks about the unexpected flowering of related plants during the previous two months might have been premature. To be fair, it is often not easy to recognize when a blooming season starts when you also have the possibility of sporadic, out-of-season flowering. But, with the aid of hindsight, I might have been more accurate to identify the flowering during the



Canistropsis showing white flower in yellow

past two months as a precursor to the flowering season that has now been firmly established. Another species that can be expected to start

blooming around this time every year *Aechmea weilbachii viridisepala* produced a few open flowers at the very end of the month. You can expect several more clones of *Aechmea weilbachii* to show up on this list throughout the cool-weather season. Most of the clones will actually flower at least twice during the period if you leave the pups on after the first flowering

is finished. Finally, *Aechmea fasciata* continued to bloom. *Aechmea azurea* flowered unnoticed during the month, but I found the inflorescence soon after blooming ceased. *Aechmea mexicana* was found in bloom during the month. It may have actually started blooming in September, but I did not happen to encounter it earlier.



Neoregelia smithii

photo by Luiz Felipe Nevaes de Carvalho

The discussion above on the perils of identifying blooming season might well be applied to the *Billbergia* species. The mass flowering of *Billbergia pyramidalis lutea* during October clearly establishes that the *Billbergia* blooming season has officially opened. We could argue that the

blooming species reported last month were either precocious harbingers of the coming season or plants out of step with their own natural rhythms. The former interpretation is certainly preferable given the clarity of hindsight.

Canistropsis seidelii was seen in flower – with a rather inconspicuous white flower peeking out from the yellow bracts in the tall inflorescence. We also had, however, a rosette of the *Canistropsis billbergioides* clone with pink bracts flowering during the month.

A single rosette of *Canistrum seidelianum* began to flower this month.

Catopsis berteroaana (the large form earlier known as *Catopsis compacta*) continued blooming through the month of October. The bright yellow color of the inflorescence remained undiminished.

As promised last month *Guzmania sanguinea brevipedicellata* completed its brilliant flowering display during the first two weeks of the month. By the end of the month, the leaf color was not completely faded, but only retained a pale shadow of the bright yellows and reds seen earlier.

Relatively few species of *Neoregelia* were found in bloom this month. This may reflect a lack of sampling effort rather than a real dip in the number of species blooming. In any case, open flowers were seen on new rosettes of *Neoregelia guttata*, returning this species to the list after a brief absence. *Neoregelia ampullacea* and *Neoregelia smithii* continued to bloom. Every few weeks, new rosettes came into flower, replacing rosettes that have finished. *Neoregelia rosea* is still producing flowers on the same rosette reported earlier this year.

Our unusual blooming plant of the month, *Nidularium campos-portoi robustum* (formerly also known as *Wittrockia campos-portoi*) is strikingly different from other cultivated *Nidularium* species in having yellow flower petals.

As suggested last month, many individual pots of *Orthophytum ophiuroides* came into bloom in October. For the most part these were individual rosettes in separate pots. In pots containing multiple rosettes, you would still usually find only a single rosette in bloom at any time. *Orthophytum zanonii* continued to flower throughout the month, as did *Orthophytum alvimii*, *Orthophytum lymanianaum* and *Orthophytum gurkenii*. The drop in the number of species in flower reflects the slowing of growth among these plants.

Species not on this month's list will show up during the next two months if we continue to have warm weather through December.

Although the *Portea alatisepala* reported in bloom last month was long finished before the start of this month, stray plants of other clones have come into bloom throughout October..

A red-leaved form of *Tillandsia capitata* bloomed for the first time in my possession

A single rosette of *Vriesea rodigasiana* continued to flower. There are still many pots of *Vriesea carinata* in bloom during this

month. Blooms on *Vriesea triligulata* faded away over the weeks.

Wittrockia superba showed no signs of open flowers over the month, so I guess we should say its flowering period has past.

We have entered the season where work in the garden is pleasant experience rather than a chore to be avoided. Go outside, re-engage with your plants, and enjoy the 'winter' weather of southern Florida.



Portea alatisepala
Photographer unknown

Our Show Draws Ever Closer

by Alan Herndon

There are only slightly more than 3 months to go before we have our Annual Show and Sale (27 February - 2 March 2014). With the distractions of the Holiday Season looming, it is important to get as much done as possible during the first few weeks of November. One of the more important tasks is developing lists of volunteers to help run the show. Please pick an area where you feel you can be of most help, and volunteer.

To volunteer for Catering (any of the four days of the show, but we especially need volunteers for the killer Friday) see Sandy Roth.

Anyone willing to help sell plants at the Members Sales Table – see Carl Bauer. If you intend to sell your own plants at the Members Table for your own profit, register with Carl Bauer to pick up your Vendor ID. If you have some excess plants on hand, please consider donating them BSSF for sale at the Members Table.

If you would like to take a turn at the Information Table, talk to Joy Parrish.

Potential Judge's Clerks need to contact Jeri Parrish.

To assist in setting up the Art Show, contact Sharon Biddix-Maessen for details.

Anyone willing to work on Data Entry and/or Placement can contact either Alan Herndon or Barbara Partagas, or just show up Thursday afternoon or evening.

If you though it would be fun to be more involved in last month's Auction, you will have two chances – one on Saturday and one on Sunday – to participate in one of the Show Auctions. We need a few volunteers each day to assist with distributing the 3 parts of each bid sheet correctly to the designated parties: the successful bidder, the plant and the money-counting table. We also need help moving the plants from the auction table to the holding area and keeping the plants in that area sorted by bidder. Please remember that you can still participate in the bidding even if you are serving in one of these positions.

Anyone who can stay at the end of the show to help clean up is doubly appreciated. By then we are all tired and ready to go home, but we need to remove all of our materials and the leave the show area clean.

Tangible benefits for volunteers at our show include free admission to Fairchild during the course of the show, an invitation to the Judge's and Volunteer's Dinner/Party Friday (Feb 28) evening, and food available throughout the show.

If you have any ideas for new activities during the show, please let me know. If you can convince me an activity is physically possible, I am willing to try it.

Don't forget to start picking out your entries for the show. Pay attention to the plants in bloom now. Many of these will bloom again before the cool season ends, and are the most likely candidates for blooming entries in the show.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15-17

American Orchid Society Fall Orchid Show
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305.667.1651

November 16 - November 17

Sale at Naples Botanical Garden
Annual plant sale at Naples Botanical Garden,
4820 Bayshore Dr. Naples, FL 34112.
Saturday from 8-2, Sunday from 9-2
<http://www.naplesgarden.org/events.shtml>

November 23-24, 2013

Key West Garden Club Fall Sale
West Martello Tower by Higgs Beach from 10
am - 3 pm Saturday and Sunday.
<http://www.keywestgardenclub.com/index.html>

December 6th - 8th

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Show and
Sale
Terrie Park
3451 Marion Street, Fort Myers

December 7, 2013

Pinecrest Gardens Holiday Festival

11000 Red Road, Pinecrest, Florida 33156
<http://pinecrest-fl.gov>

February 27-March 2, 2014
Bromeliad Annual Show
FTBG, 10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: 305.667.1651

April 19-20, 2014
33rd International Orchid & Bromeliad Show
3750 S Flamingo Road
Davie, Florida 33330-1614
<http://www.flamingogardens.org/Events.html>

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN
<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

83.

When Boss received the banking records not obtained by Cyber, he handed the combing over to Rodriguez and Marlene. Within moments, each had found numerous checks written to people or organizations that they knew. Checks with Bea's name and the Judge's name were put into separate piles. Within one hour each pile had no less than 20 checks. In addition, there were more than 40 checks to Marin, and another 30 to 40 checks to his ex. Marlene, always a perfectionist, made an excel sheet outlining these checks in two formats, by payee and another in chronological order. The payee list showed the total amount paid over to a particular person. The chronological offered a glimpse of the disbursements in units of time.

After reviewing the excel sheet, Marlene knocked on the Boss's door and handed him the various cleanly outlined sheets. When he read the payee sheet, he saw the inclusion of large sums of money to Linares, his face fell. His expression was reflective of true feelings. Boss, unfortunately or fortunately, missed witnessing Marlene's face when she read the 16 entries showing payments to Candy.

"Heck, the BSSF is knee deep in the insurance fraud. Unfortunately, it's the members and not the BSSF which is getting all of the financial benefit."

"Of course the price was steep for the benefits obtained." Marlene added.

"Well, officer. We have a problem here now. My friends and your friend are now suspects. So, that means friendships must immediately end. But, what delivers me to regret is that the allegedly mysterious Code which no one but Marin knew about is something known by many. Two are dead, and two are here. One was apparently a target, and an innocent was killed in her place. Then, we discover that the innocent is not innocent, which leads us to believe the target is innocent. But, now that we see Candy getting chunks of cash, we know she is not innocent. Same for Linares. Now, we have to ask, why are they alive and the Judge and Bea left without a breath. I think it is about the judging event. Something happened in the judging event. Something big. But, who but the judges would ever know what happened?"

"Clerks and other judges." Marlene answered as though Boss was asking a question, when he was really concluding that no one would have been witnessing the judging.

"Explain this to me."

"Well, judges can't touch plants. The clerks do that. They are there the whole time. And, judges usually judge in clusters of three or more. So, even if Bea and the Judge were together, there was probably one more judge and at least one clerk with them the whole time."

"Who would know the names of those people?" Boss asked.

"The show chairman."

Captain walked into Boss's office and was given the three-minute overview of what had been discovered in the past few hours. He nodded as things were beginning to show a pattern. "Good move. No, great move, on getting the idea to gather the bank records."

Just as Marlene and Boss delivered this information to Captain, Ronaldo came in with sheets of bank records and handed them to Boss with a smile.

"Good." the Captain said grabbing the document from Boss's hand and then said. "Now go online and tell me who was the show chair of the Australian show in which Delaney

got goose egged and Bea and the Judge enjoyed petting Koalas, drinking Fosters and grilling roo meat on the barbie.”

“Yes sir.” Ronaldo said and ran down the hall.

84.

“You know, I am not a heroic guy. And, I am not really much experienced with ladies. And, I am not really well experienced in social scenes. So, I have to ask you – what is it that brought me here and why did you ask me to drive you here?” Joshua still had no idea of what was transpiring about him, let alone what had happened the day before, or the day before that, with his mind recovering still from the intoxicating pollutants instilled into one of his many drinks that night.

“I thought you were cute.” Susie said, finishing the statement with a cute over-the-shoulder grin and slight skip in her gait that almost melted Joshua’s heart.

“If I had a nickel for every time that line was used on me, I would be homeless.” Joshua mumbled these words of wisdom to himself, but Susie overheard him and approached him, put her hands on each side of his face, and held his head so that their eyes were in direct contact, and responded, “I was not being giddy. I thought you were cute.”

Joshua had no idea what to say and just let his head fall when Susie released her hold on his head.

After thinking over this occasion when a woman, a good looking woman, had paid attention to him and shown some concern for his health and wanted a relationship with him, he looked back at her and said, “Gee, for a while there, I thought you were trying to kill me or something. I had all these weird thoughts passing through my head.”

“Kill you!? What do you think I am? Jeez. You. Who do you think I am? I couldn’t hurt a fly. Why I was raised a vegetarian. Why I would never think of hunting. Why, do you know that I have never eaten one morsel of meat in my entire life? Not once! And, you think that I – the lifetime vegetarian, and presently contemplating becoming a vegan – would go out, pick up a man at a bar to murder him in my apartment? Wow. This is the worst impression I have made on anyone. Ever.”

Before she could continue, Joshua jumped in, “Look. I said the thoughts were weird. Heck, I was

drugged or something, slept for two days, and now awoken in your place with hunger and a loss of memory. I was frightened. And, you are the only face I see between the time of the my last memory to this moment – so I have to associate you and your face to my misery. Is that not understandable? And, by the way, I do not believe that you thought I was cute enough to go so out of your way.”

Susie knew that Joshua was naive, but not foolish. She sensed his natural instincts were more acute than his social naivete. Churning inside her were the thoughts of what next to do. She approached this discussion with Joshua as a chess play; she wanted to deliver a sacrifice or another maneuver to him which would deceive her real intentions, and lead him to follow the misdirection. She wanted to be very careful, though. He was no patsy. He proved that already when he was able to annul her wanting him for being cute. That read was already a decisive victory for him. He proved to her that she would require another plan; another with more depth of deception. Something she could clearly conjure.

“Listen, I do not want to rile you up, and I understand what you are saying are the truths as you perceive them to be, but let me tell you something, I have not been totally truthful with you. I was accurate in stating I needed a ride home. But, I did not tell you that I also needed someone for the night. I was in fear. There are people after me and the police cannot help. One is a man, and I believed that an entry into this apartment with you would convince him to stay away as you would make any attempts to get to me more difficult – if not too difficult for the task. I thank you for your service, and wish I could pay you or give back your day to you, but I cannot do either. Instead, I hope you are well, and I invite you to visit again and please feel free to call me. I left my address and number on a piece of paper in your pocket. So, go ahead and dress and leave at your pleasure, and I would really like it if you would call in the future.”

Joshua took the cue, and quickly dressed and exited. After closing the front door, he reached into his pocket and found a piece of paper, smiled at the touch, and walked onto the street with a lightened and happy zip in his step.